

has a rear underride guard and side underride guards; and

(B) shall require that a truck used under a contract with the General Services Administration has a rear underride guard and side underride guards.

(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any purchase or use of a truck required under a contract entered into by the General Services Administration before the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2190. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ AUTHORIZATION OF AMTRAK TO BRING A CIVIL ACTION TO ENFORCE ITS PREFERENCE RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 24308(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: “Notwithstanding sections 24103(a) and 24308(f), Amtrak shall have the right to bring an action for equitable or other relief in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia to enforce the preference rights granted under this subsection.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 24103(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and section 24308(c)” before “, only the Attorney General”.

SA 2191. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BRAUN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 25010 of division B and insert the following:

SEC. 25010. RURAL INVESTMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVISORY BOARD.—The term “Advisory Board” means the Rural Transportation Advisory Board established under subsection (d)(1).

(2) BUILD AMERICA BUREAU.—The term “Build America Bureau” means the National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau established under section 116 of title 49, United States Code.

(3) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Rural Investment Council established under subsection (c)(1).

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director for Rural Investment appointed under subsection (b)(3)(A).

(5) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Office of Rural Investment established under subsection (b)(1).

(6) RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term “rural community” means—

(A) a community, including a historically disadvantaged community, located in a rural area;

(B) a federally recognized Indian Tribe; and

(C) a historically disadvantaged community located in a Tribal area.

(b) OFFICE OF RURAL INVESTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in the Department, within the Office of the Secretary, an Office of Rural Investment—

(A) to improve the analysis of projects proposed by rural communities applying for discretionary grants from the Department, including by ensuring that project costs, local resources, and the larger benefits to the people and the economy of the United States are appropriately considered;

(B) to ensure that the unique needs and attributes of rural transportation, involving all modes, are fully addressed and prioritized during the development and implementation of transportation policies, programs, and activities within the Department;

(C)(i) to improve coordination of Federal transportation policies, programs, and activities within the Department in a manner that expands economic development in rural communities and regions; and

(ii) to provide recommendations for improvement, including additional internal realignments;

(D) to expand Federal transportation infrastructure investment in rural communities and regions, including by providing recommendations for changes in existing funding distribution patterns;

(E) to use innovation to resolve local and regional transportation challenges faced by rural communities and regions;

(F) to promote and improve planning and coordination among rural communities and regions to maximize the unique competitive advantage in those locations while avoiding duplicative Federal, State and local investments; and

(G) to ensure that all rural communities and regions lacking resources receive proactive outreach, education, and technical assistance to improve access to Federal transportation programs.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—The Office shall—

(A) collect input from knowledgeable entities and the public on—

(i) the benefits of rural and Tribal transportation projects;

(ii) the technical and financial assistance required for constructing and operating rural and Tribal transportation infrastructure and services;

(iii) barriers and opportunities to funding rural and Tribal transportation projects;

(iv) unique transportation barriers and challenges facing historically disadvantaged communities in rural and Tribal areas; and

(v) unique environmental transportation issues for rural communities and Tribal communities;

(B) evaluate data on rural and Tribal transportation challenges and determine methods to align the discretionary funding and financing opportunities of the Department with the needs of rural communities and Tribal communities for meeting national transportation goals; and

(C) educate rural communities and Tribal communities about applicable Department discretionary grants, develop effective methods to evaluate projects in those communities in discretionary grant programs, and communicate those methods through program guidance.

(3) LEADERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be headed by a Director for Rural Investment who shall be appointed by, and report directly to, the Secretary.

(B) DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—The Director shall—

(i) be responsible for engaging in activities to carry out—

(I) the mission of the Office described in paragraph (1); and

(II) the objectives of the Office described in paragraph (2);

(ii) organize, guide, and lead activities within the Department to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure to improve safety, economic development, and quality of life in rural communities and regions;

(iii) provide information and outreach to rural communities and regions concerning the availability and eligibility requirements of participating in programs of the Department;

(iv) help rural communities and regions—

(I) identify competitive economic advantages and transportation investments that ensure continued economic growth; and

(II) avoid duplicative transportation investments;

(v) serve as a resource for assisting rural communities and regions with respect to Federal transportation programs;

(vi) identify—

(I) Federal statutes, regulations, and policies that may impede the Department from supporting effective rural infrastructure projects that address national transportation goals; and

(II) potential measures to solve or mitigate those issues;

(vii) identify improved, simplified, and streamlined internal processes to help limited-resource rural communities and regions access transportation investments;

(viii) recommend changes and initiatives for the Secretary to consider;

(ix) ensure and coordinate a routine rural consultation on the development of policies, programs, and activities of the Department;

(x) serve as an advocate within the Department on behalf of rural communities and regions; and

(xi) work in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission, and other Federal agencies, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, in carrying out the duties described in clauses (i) through (x).

(4) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—For the purpose of carrying out the mission of the Office under paragraph (1) and the objectives of the Office under paragraph (2), the Secretary may enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, and other agreements as necessary, including with research centers, institutions of higher education, States, units of local government, nonprofit organizations, or a combination of any of those entities—

(A) to conduct research on transportation investments that promote rural economic development;

(B) to solicit information in the development of policy, programs, and activities of the Department that can improve infrastructure investment and economic development in rural communities and regions;

(C) to develop educational and outreach materials, including the conduct of workshops, courses, and certified training for rural communities and regions that can further the mission and objectives of the Office and the mission and goals of the Department; and

(D) to carry out any other activities, as determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

(5) GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out the mission of the Office under paragraph (1) and the objectives of the Office

under paragraph (2), the Secretary may award competitive grants to an entity described in subparagraph (B) to support expanded education, outreach, and technical assistance to rural communities and regions.

(B) ENTITY DESCRIBED.—An entity referred to in subparagraph (A) is a nonprofit organization or an institution of higher education that has not less than 3 years of experience providing meaningful transportation technical assistance or advocacy services to rural communities and regions.

(6) EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall ensure that not more than 4 full-time equivalent employees are assigned to the Office.

(C) RURAL INVESTMENT COUNCIL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a Rural Investment Council—

(A) to assist the Secretary in organizing the Office;

(B) to provide guidance to the Office;

(C) to assist the Director in leading the Office; and

(D) to work with the Office to coordinate rural-related and Tribal-related funding programs and assistance among the modal administrations of the Department.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be composed of the following officers of the Department, or their designees:

(i) The Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

(ii) The General Counsel.

(iii) The Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs.

(iv) The Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology.

(v) The Assistant Secretary for Multimodal Freight.

(vi) The Administrators of—

(I) the Federal Aviation Administration;

(II) the Federal Highway Administration;

(III) the Federal Railroad Administration; and

(IV) the Federal Transit Administration.

(vii) The Executive Director of the Build America Bureau.

(viii) The Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs.

(B) CHAIR.—The Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy shall be the Chair of the Council.

(C) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Secretary or the Chair of the Council may designate additional members to serve on the Council.

(3) ADDITIONAL MODAL INPUT.—To address issues related to safety and transport of rural and Tribal commodities, the Council shall consult with the Administrators (or their designees) of—

(A) the Maritime Administration;

(B) the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; and

(C) the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

(4) DUTIES.—Members of the Council shall—

(A) participate in all meetings and relevant Council activities and be prepared to share information relevant to rural and Tribal transportation infrastructure projects and issues;

(B) provide guidance and leadership on rural and Tribal transportation infrastructure issues and represent the work of the Council and the Department on those issues to external stakeholders; and

(C) recommend initiatives to the Chair of the Council to consider, establish, and staff any resulting activities or working groups.

(5) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet bi-monthly.

(6) WORK PRODUCTS AND DELIVERABLES.—The Council may develop work products or deliverables to meet the goals of the Council, including—

(A) an annual report to Congress describing Council activities for the past year and expected activities for the coming year;

(B) any recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of Department discretionary grant programs regarding rural and Tribal infrastructure issues; and

(C) other guides and reports for relevant groups and the public.

(d) RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a Rural Transportation Advisory Board to consult with and advise the Office.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board shall be composed of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary from among individuals with direct experience with rural issues, of whom—

(i) not fewer than 1 shall be a representative from an institution of higher education or extension program;

(ii) not fewer than 1 shall be a representative from an organization promoting business and economic development, such as a chamber of commerce, a local government institution, or a planning organization;

(iii) not fewer than 1 shall be a representative from a financing entity;

(iv) not fewer than 1 shall have experience in health, mobility, or emergency services;

(v) not fewer than 1 shall have experience in transportation safety;

(vi) not fewer than 1 shall have experience with workforce access;

(vii) not fewer than 1 shall have experience with tourism and recreational activities;

(viii) not fewer than 1 shall have—

(I) experience with rural supply chains, such as direct-to-consumer supply chains; and

(II) wholesale distribution experience;

(ix) not fewer than 1 shall have experience in emerging or innovative technologies relating to rural transportation networks;

(x) not fewer than 1 shall have experience in food, nutrition, and grocery access;

(xi) not fewer than 1 shall be actively engaged in agriculture, ranching, or forestry; and

(xii) not fewer than 1 shall have experience with historically underserved regions, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall appoint members to the Advisory Board in a manner that ensures, to the maximum extent practicable, that the geographic and economic diversity of rural communities and regions of the United States are represented.

(C) TIMING OF INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the initial members of the Advisory Board.

(D) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a member of the Advisory Board shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(ii) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the members first appointed to the Advisory Board—

(I) 5, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 3 years;

(II) 5, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(III) 5, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 1 year.

(E) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy on the Advisory Board—

(i) shall not affect the power of the Advisory Board; and

(ii) shall be filled as soon as practicable and in the same manner as the original appointment.

(F) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An appointee to the Advisory Board may serve 1 additional, consecutive term if the member is reappointed by the Secretary.

(3) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board shall meet not less than twice per year, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the initial members of the Advisory Board are appointed under paragraph (2)(C), the Advisory Board shall hold the first meeting of the Advisory Board.

(4) DUTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board shall—

(i) advise the Office on issues related to rural needs relating to Federal transportation programs;

(ii) evaluate and review ongoing research activities relating to rural transportation networks, including new and emerging barriers to economic development and access to investments;

(iii) develop recommendations for any changes to Federal law, regulations, internal Department policies or guidance, or other measures that would eliminate barriers for rural access or improve rural equity in transportation investments;

(iv) examine methods of maximizing the number of opportunities for assistance for rural communities and regions under Federal transportation programs, including expanded outreach and technical assistance;

(v) examine methods of encouraging intergovernmental and local resource cooperation to mitigate duplicative investments in key rural communities and regions and improve the efficiencies in the delivery of Federal transportation programs;

(vi) evaluate other methods of creating new opportunities for rural communities and regions; and

(vii) address any other relevant issues, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(B) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the initial members of the Advisory Board are appointed under paragraph (2)(C), and every 2 years thereafter through 2026, the Advisory Board shall submit to the Secretary and the relevant committees of Congress a report describing the recommendations developed under subparagraph (A)(iii).

(5) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Advisory Board shall serve without compensation.

(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Advisory Board shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(6) TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Advisory Board shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the initial members are appointed under paragraph (2)(C).

(B) EXTENSION.—Before the date on which the Advisory Board terminates, the Secretary may renew the Advisory Board for 1 or more 2-year periods.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

SA 2192. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and